

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1010

By McMillan

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Junior Leagues of Tennessee upon the celebration of the 105th anniversary of the Junior League.

WHEREAS, the Association of Junior Leagues International is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable; and

WHEREAS, the Junior League reaches out to women of all races, religions, and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to voluntarism; and

WHEREAS, the 294 Junior Leagues throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Great Britain have a collective membership of more than 175,000; Nashville and Memphis are two of the larger leagues in the world; and

WHEREAS, in 1901, Mary Harriman, a 19-year-old college student from a socially prominent family, founded the first Junior League in New York City to involve those more fortunate in helping people in need; and

WHEREAS, in 1921, thirty Junior Leagues joined together to form the Association of Junior Leagues International to collectively advance their work; and

WHEREAS, in 1930, the Junior League formed its first State Public Affairs Committee, now known as the Advocacy and Public Awareness Committee, to influence public welfare policy and educate its membership on such issues; and

WHEREAS, Junior Leagues provide hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours every year to address issues in their local communities, including child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, affordable day care, pregnancy prevention, substance abuse prevention, HIV/AIDS

education, breast cancer awareness, school readiness, literacy, and health care for children; and

WHEREAS, the Junior Leagues of Tennessee represent the collective membership of Bristol, Chattanooga, Johnson City, Kingsport, Knoxville, Memphis, Murfreesboro, and Nashville; and

WHEREAS, the Junior Leagues of Tennessee boast a membership of more than 6,500 members and annual community contributions in excess of \$2.5 million; additionally, the Junior Leagues have performed over 2.5 million hours of community service to develop and improve our communities; and

WHEREAS, the Junior Leagues of Tennessee's exemplary community service projects include Music in the Meadow symphony concerts in Bristol; Eating Disorder Awareness in Chattanooga; the Children's Advocacy Center for child sexual abuse victims in Johnson City; the Joy Baker Center parenting program and daycare facility in Knoxville; the Hope House daycare center for children affected with AIDS in Memphis; the Children's Discovery Center promoting multiculturalism, acceptance, and tolerance in Murfreesboro; and the Renewal House residential recovery community for addicted mothers and their children in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, the Junior Leagues of Tennessee Advocacy and Public Awareness Committee is a state-level coalition formed and owned by the Junior Leagues of Tennessee to facilitate networking, coordinate information and research, promote awareness, and advocate on issues of shared interest; and

WHEREAS, the Junior League is committed to supporting efforts to develop women's and children's potential and improving their communities through the leadership of trained volunteers in Junior Leagues statewide; and

WHEREAS, past notable members of the Junior League include Eleanor Roosevelt, Betty Ford, Nancy Reagan, Barbara Bush, and Sandra Day O'Connor; and

WHEREAS, illustrious members of the Junior Leagues of Tennessee include Judge Shirley Underwood, Martha Ingram, and our own Representative Beth Harwell; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to honor and commend this excellent community focused volunteer training organization; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the officers and members of the Junior Leagues of Tennessee and its Advocacy and Public Awareness Committee on the occasion of the Junior League's 105<sup>th</sup> anniversary, reflecting with deep appreciation on their numerous contributions to their communities, state, and country. We wish them much continued success in all of their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.